

HIDDEN BATTLES

a documentary by Victoria Mills

There are more than 21million soldiers worldwide; all are trained to kill in combat.
Once they kill, what happens to them?



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This feature-length documentary is an intimate look at the psychological effects of killing on soldiers. **HIDDEN BATTLES** looks beyond the politics of good and evil and focuses instead on the personal. This in-depth investigation reveals what it really means to kill another human being as told by the enlisted men and women, officers, freedom fighters and guerillas who pulled the trigger.

Whether you support or oppose war, the effect of killing on the individual soldier is immeasurable, According to Rick Gabriel, veteran and war historian, all higher primates have an aversion to killing. “Very often the creation of post traumatic stress is not the fear of being killed, it is the fear of facing the fact that you have killed.”

In intimate interviews the soldiers of **HIDDEN BATTLES** recount their experiences —stories re-visited privately innumerable times, yet recounted to others rarely: Al, a U.S. soldier, shooting a Vietcong at close range; Saar, an Israeli Special Forces officer, seeing the boots of a Palestinian family lined up outside a door before entering to kill the father; and Esmeralda, a Sandinista, leaning to shoot as Samosa’s army is entering her village.

WE NEED THIS FILM

It is estimated that one in three U.S. soldiers are returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan suffering from the effects of PTSD and combat-stress. **HIDDEN BATTLES** shows soldiers, their families, and audiences all over the world the real-life, honest revelations of those who have killed. This film gives voice to the countless “hidden battles” that soldiers carry home with them, so that these battles do not have to be hidden anymore.

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